(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Central Government from time to time has exhorted the states to remain vigilant and step up enforcement operations and intensify action to check malpractices like hoarding, profiteering and blackmarketing. At the same time, the Central Government has impressed upon the State/U.T. Governments that they should be very careful and selective in the matter of launching prosecution and should not resort to prosecution in cases of small and technical offences where departmental actions can be taken.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Publication of the cost of Production on the packed commodities

3610. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to make the declaration and publication of the cost of production of commodities on the packages of the various consumer commodities ;

(b) if so, what is the exact proposal ;

(c) how far it will help in generating the consciousness in the public about the prices to be paid are not too high than the cost of production ; and

(d) whether some scientific format for calculating cost of production will be evolved lest producers wrongly show exhorbitant cost of production to keep prices high ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) (a) to (d) There has been a strong feeling expressed in the press and elsewhere that the actual sale prices of a number of prepacked commodities are far less than the price printed on the package. As the issue involved is complicated requiring a deeper study on a number of points like the element of freight, taxes, commission payable the type of retail shop where the product is sold etc., the Ministry has constituted an expert committee to recommend to the Government the best method of declaration of sale price on the packages.

Mobile ration distribution centres in Andhra Pradesh

3611. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to use mobile ration distribution centres for Public Distribution System items in remote villages;

(b) if so, details thereof ;

(c) the areas selected in Andhra Pradesh for this purpose; and

(d) by when it will be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) To supplement the efforts of the States/UTs to introduce mobile fair price shops to cover the consumer residing in hilly, remote, far-flung, desert, tribal and inaccessible areas, Central Government has been providing financial assistance for the purchase of vans to be operated as mobile fair price shops.